

WARREN
MAGAZINE

ROOK TO THE RESCUE ON PAGE 5



VAMPI
#70
\$1.25 58885-6

VAMPIRELLA

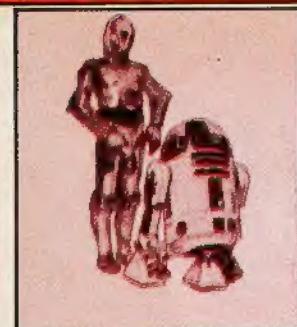
THE
SWAMP
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JULY 1978



IS SHE HUMAN OR MONSTER?





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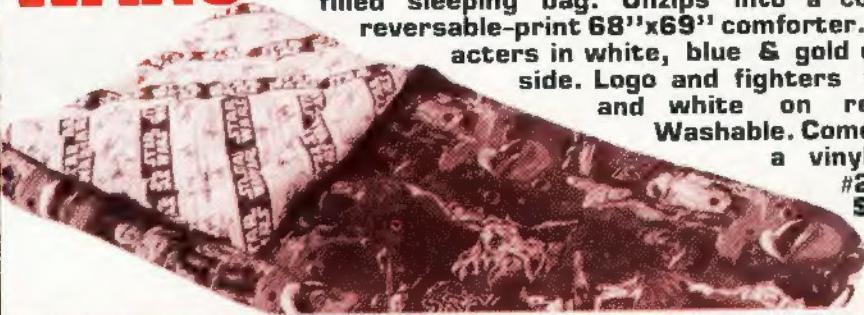
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VAMPIRELLA®

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VAMPI'S SCARLET MAIL An angry young reader, Mary Quince, claims that we've turned our dark, seductively beautiful heroine into a "...dumb broad..." and there are better story lines in a Bugs Bunny cartoon. Who is Mary Quince and why is she saying those awful things?

5

VAMPI: GRANNY GROSS Our Lady of Ludicrous Luck has become the hapless guest of Granny Gadget and the plaything of Rollo Small. All of her powers as a vampire have been counteracted by Granny's robots making VAMPI a totally helpless victim to Rollo's desires!

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THE COMIC BOOKS One of the great, not to mention controversial, innovations of the comics field was the Classics Illustrated series. Some looked upon them as instant book reports, others as inspiration to read the novel. Here is a brief history and, sadly, an obituary.

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MASK OF U'GIN A series of knifings had been plaguing the young girls of Harlem. The deaths were patterned, almost ritualistic and the killer appeared to be supernatural because of the mask he wore. Panda, who ran a shop in Harlem, was especially scared. It was her mask!

24

SWAMP LOVERS The wizen hermit of the swamps had everything a body could need for survival. A sturdy home, food sloshing over his porch and even companionship. And that was the problem: the companion. Sometimes she was a lovely gal—other times, something else!

36

REALITY, TWICE REMOVED Legend has told us, Emperor Nero played on his fiddle while Rome burned about him. If Nero is considered the paragon of apathy then how does one rate Burt and Adrienne who argue about their Florida vacation as Washington explodes!

44

EXORCISM! The battle was on! Within a young girl's body, a demonic force was fighting for control in order to fulfill its deadly and mysterious mission. The village priest was helpless to save the child. A special exorcist had to be summoned. However, no one understood how special!

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Vampi's Scarlet Letters

FOXY FLEUR:

WELCOME BACK!

Le'ts face facts, when you first started VAMPIRELLA you were writing for an audience of kids, now you are writing for the same kids, only they're adults. The funny thing is the VAMPI stories were far more mature then, than they are now.

Our heroine is no more a dark, seductively beautiful, mysterious character. VAMPI is just a dumb broad.

Teaming her up with Pantha is fine, but does it have to go on forever? Here you have a unique character, equal to VAMPI herself, but you give VAMPI the meaty parts of the stories and cancel Pantha out.

And don't expect me to believe the story in "Orphe'e" (issue #68)! I could get a better story watching a Bugs Bunny cartoon.

I don't want to write a letter like this. I have been buying WARREN magazines since I was knee-high to a rattlesnake. I want you guys to do well. So quit the trash.

Lastly, I loved the photo cover of issue #67.

MARY QUINCE
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"October Man" was truly excellent. More tales like this one, please.

ALEX RUDNOV
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"By Degrees" was a crime, one of the poorest excuses for a story I have ever read! Maybe Bruce Jones should write for Mad Magazine or take up knitting.

LEROY H.
Fort Worth, Texas

Is there a chance VAMPIRELLA could feature at least four regular co-stars. Of course, the first feature would be the fabulous VAMPIRELLA, while the second could be Pantha and the third, Fleur. The fourth could feature a different female horror heroine each issue. Or better yet, create a new black and white mag, which could feature a team of super-ladies!

WILSON RIVERA
Brooklyn, N.Y.



I really liked "The October Man" in issue #68. Why? Because it was the kind of story that made me want to keep on reading!

KEVIN CAVANAGH
Montvale, N.J.

My favorite story was Bruce Jones' "By Degrees." Jose Ortiz perfectly captured the awful feeling of last minute shopping in holiday crowds and the hero's panic as the world around him began to change and melt away! The story was a winner!

CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER
Atlanta, Ga.

I have noticed of late that VAMPIRELLA is getting softer. I am not a hard-core horror fan but I am not paying \$1.25 for Jack and Jill!

EDNA ZABLOCKI
Afton, N.Y.

In issue #68, I'm overjoyed to see Fleur return in all her former glory. I was left in sheer ecstasy after reading "Night of the Alley Cats!" Ramon Torrents' magnificent art literally blew my mind!

I did not particularly like Bruce Jones' "By Degrees" but Jose Ortiz' art was a treat. I enjoyed "Ali Addan and Son." Bill DuBay and Esteban Maroto make a good team, but I didn't like the sideways set-up of the strip.

Please congratulate Frank Frazetta, Bruce Jones, Alex Nino, Bill DuBay, Luis Bermejo, Rich Corben, Russ Heath and Ramon Torrents for me. For once, all of the winners deserved their Warren awards.

JOE COLLINS
Afton, N.Y.

"October Man" by Bruce Jones was excellent. It started out slow but, by half way through it had grabbed me! By the final two pages I was really excited! An excellent mystery/drama with just a touch of horror!

HENRY J. KUJAWA
Camden, N.J.

Help! Are Jose Gonzalez' drawings changing or are my eyes going on me? The same hand is obviously pushing the pen, but the result is so... static.

Has JG abandoned his pen and ink for magic marker? The detail in his drawings is all gone, and so is the careful molding of each line—to such an extent that the "Orphe'e" episode almost appeared to be sketched.

RICHARD VAN BUREN
College Park, Md.

VAMPIRELLA #68 was as superb as ever. Jose Gonzalez can so marvelously portray the beauty of VAMPIRELLA. She has matured greatly in her adventures over the years and she seems to be more beautiful each time I see her.

JERRY ROBINSON
Binghamton, N.Y.

"Orphe'e ..." was the single most outrageous and hilarious story I've read in the past year! The mad doctor's rantings, the horror-movie cliche suggestions about cannibalism, that awful sci-fi movie being made with such preposterous scripting!! And the final surprise ending all fit together perfectly to make up a memorable story as well as a very funny satire.

HENRY R. KUJAWA
Camden, N.J.

The big event of VAMPIRELLA #68 was the return of Fleur. I've been awaiting it a long time! The story "Night of the Alley Cat" was good and Ramon Torrents didn't get his special award for artistic excellence for nothing! It's deserved!

KIERAN DIAMOND
Philadelphia, Pa.

The pulp style cover of VAMPIRELLA #68 was fascinating and the effect of seeing the raven-haired VAMPIRELLA in the clutches of the 50's robot was unbelievable. Really excellent!

JERRY ROBINSON
Binghamton, N.Y.

I just bought issue #68 and it was far-out. I really dug the story, "Orphe'e, poor Orphe'e".

The cover by Enrich was fantastic. Enrich is second only to Corben or Frazetta.

I could care less about seeing more contests in future issues, but I would really like to see the fan pages return again.

In VAMPI #65 she said that she and Adam would meet again. Well, where the hell is he? How about putting Dracula back into the series for a couple of issues.

JOHN ROBINSON
Knoxville, Tenn.


Adam will return to the series, John. As for Dracula ... he's not in VAMPI's immediate future but we won't completely rule out an eventual appearance by the masterful old villain.

That's a nice cover on VAMPIRELLA #68. The original wasn't bad, either, when it appeared on the January 1950 issue of Startling Stories. Captain Future's pal Grag and our gal VAMPI make a handsome couple.

BERNARD DREW
Housatonic, Mass.

Vampi's Scarlet Letters
C/O WARREN PUBLISHING
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VAMPIRELLA

VAMPIRELLA STARED BE-MUSEDLY DOWN AT THE LITTLE MAN KNOWN AS ROLLEM SMALL. SHE HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED TO PLEASE THIS MINIATURE MANIAC.



WHILE LEAVING THE HOLLYWOOD FILM LOT WHERE HER LATEST MOVIE WAS IN PROGRESS, VAMPI HAD BEEN ATTACKED, RIPPED FROM PENDRAGON'S PROTECTIVE ARM...



...BY A MENAGE OF MANDROIDS, ROBOT-MACHINES CREATED BY THE MAD, BUT BRILLIANTLY CREATIVE INVENTOR, GRANNY GEARLOOSE.



VAMPI, DESTINED BY THE SOLICITOUS GRANNY AS A GIFT FOR HER STEPSON, ROLLEM, WAS NOW IMPRISONED IN AN INACCESSIBLE FORTRESS ATOP THE MISTY MOUNTAINS.



VAMPI SMILED. SHE WAS A PRISONER, CERTAINLY... BUT SHE WAS HARDLY HELPLESS!

**HOSTILE
GRANNY GEARLOOSE**





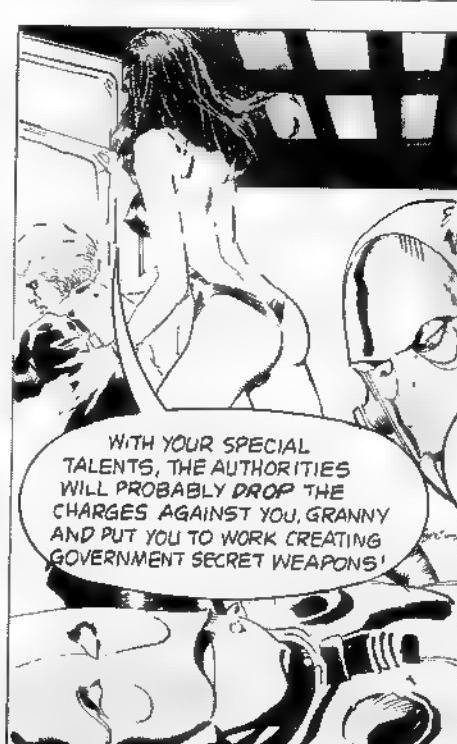












END

THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Brancatelli

Classics Illustrated

If you review the less-than-glorious five-decade history of the comic-book business, you won't find too many truly noteworthy events. After the rather ingenious decision was made to publish low-cost, full-color funny books on a regular basis in the early 1930s, there have been very, very few other milestones.

There was Superman—originally conceived as a comic-strip character, of course—and the whole concept of the "superhero." There was Charles Biro's *Crime Does Not Pay*, the first "crime" comic, and his little remembered but trailblazing *Tops* book, the first oversized comic magazine. There was the Gaines/Feldstein "New Trend" at EC, the start of the horror comic genre, and Harvey Kurtzman's *Mad*. Simon and Kirby's invention of the "romance" comic in the 1950s certainly qualified. And, if you stretch things, Stan Lee's horde of Marvel "superheroes with problems" were probably in the milestone category, too.

There was one other truly significant genre of comic publishing, the *Classics Illustrated* series, and it is sad to report this once important part of the comic book business is about to become extinct.

Although Al Kanter, the originator of *Classics*, sold the firm in 1969 and the new owners stopped producing titles three years later, there have been millions of copies in print for schools, libraries and other institutions to buy throughout the 1970s.

Now even that supply is almost totally gone, never to be replenished. Guild Books, the small New York

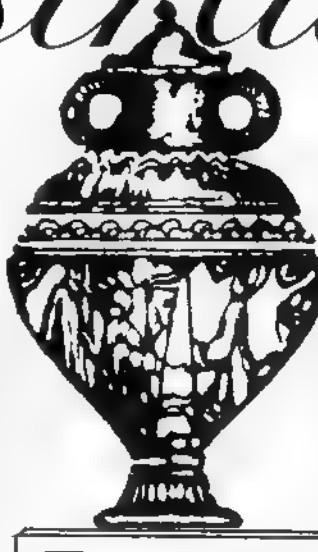
publishing house that has been distributing the remainders for the last five years, says its inventory will run out before the end of the year.

"Of the 300 titles of *Classics Illustrated* originally published, less than 50 remain," according to Guild publisher M. Declan ("Deck") Bransfield III. "Rural states like Utah and New Hampshire and Arizona have been buying them in quantity. We had been selling about 25,000 a month in bulk, but they'll be gone pretty soon."

During their peaks in the mid-1960s, *Classics* were selling about 20 million copies a year on newsstands and in chain stores such as Woolworth. While they sold for a quarter throughout most of the 1960s, Guild was selling them at 59 cents a copy.

Unlike most of the mimicry and imitation that ran rampant in the 1940s—much like it does today—*Classics* were a true original. Kanter, a publisher of only modest means in a comic business then dominated by National and Timely and Fawcett, hit upon the idea of condensing classics of literature in comic form, when he discovered his own children were reading more comics than classics.

Although *Classics*—and *Junior Classics* for the youngest comic readers—had to weather some early opposition from teachers and schools and others in the educational bureaucracy, the books made a huge impact on the market. Educators learned the kids would read *Classics* and the books spurred them on to better things. Kanter bowed to the pressure, too, and began printing a little caveat "Now that you



have read the *Classics Illustrated* edition, don't miss the added enjoyment of reading the original, obtainable at your school or public library"—at the end of each comic.

"They helped many children become interested in great literature," Mike Kanter, former *Classics* distribution manager, said the other day. "Kids called them instant book reports, but that was never my brother Al's intent for them when he started the project. We never put ads in, either. We always tried to keep them educational."

Deck Bransfield, however, said his first encounter with *Classics* in the 1940s was to use them as the "instant book report." "I kept putting off reading *Crime and Punishment* by Dostoyevsky for so long that I read the comic the night before and whipped out a book report.

"The teacher never knew," Bransfield claimed, "but even now I attribute my love of readings to *Classics*. They got me started on Russian novels."

The bad days for *Classics* didn't come until the newsstand crunch of the late 1960s, the crunch that affected the whole magazine business.

"*Classics* began to fade because dealers stopped displaying them," Mike Kanter said. "They didn't want to give valuable store space to such a small profit item."

Bowing to the inevitable, Al Kanter sold the name *Classics Illustrated* and the inventory to Twin Circle, the religious publishing house that also produces the evangelical editions of *Archie*. Twin Circle gave up the ghost—or the spirit, if you will—in 1972, stopped publishing *Classics* and sold the remaining inventory to Guild.

Of the remaining four dozen titles, Bransfield said, there are plenty of copies of Dickens' *David Copperfield*, but perilously few copies of Melville's *Moby Dick*.

Classics, like all comics, have become big, big business, commanding outrageous prices for first editions. Guild, however, is selling its remaining inventory for the 59-cent price, plus 25 cents an order for delivery. They will ship the set of the 28 remaining *Classics* for \$16.77, a set of 13 remaining *Black History Illustrated* for \$7.92 and the six remaining "vocabulary builders" (comic versions of nursery rhymes) for \$3.79.

And, if you're not a purist, Guild will also sell you a set of 11 of those tacky *Marvel Classics Comics* for \$6.49.

Guild Books can be contacted at 86 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10024.



SOMETIMES, WHEN SHE WALKED THROUGH HARLEM, LEE IMAGINED THE SOUND OF VOODOO DRUMBEATS, AND THE SMELL OF ANIMAL FLESH COOKED OVER A JUNGLE FIRE. IT WAS TACKY, BUT VIVID; ESPECIALLY HERE, IN THE OLD OCCULT CURIO SHOP.

LEE SHUDDERED. THERE WAS SOMETHING MORBID ABOUT THE ARTIFACTS; THEY WERE EVIL AND UGLY, STRIPPED OF THE ARTIFICIAL GLOSS OF CIVILIZED SOUVENIRS... DARK REMINDERS THAT NOT EVERYTHING IS UNDERSTOOD BY MODERN SCIENCE.

BUT ALL SHE WANTED WAS A NECKLACE, TO REPLACE THE ONE SHE'D BORROWED FROM A FRIEND, THEN LOST.



CAN I HELP YOU?

YOU STARTLED ME! I'M LOOKING FOR A NECKLACE... SOMETHING UNUSUAL...!



EVERYTHING IN MY SHOP IS UNUSUAL, HONEY. BUT I GOT SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL FOR YOU! IT'S MADE FROM BEADS OF FORTUNE--MAGIC CHARMS-- GUARANTEED TO PUT AN END TO ALL YOUR TROUBLES!

I'LL TAKE IT.



OUTSIDE THE SHOP, SHE FITTED THE NECKLACE AROUND HER OWN THROAT. IF IT WAS MAGIC, MAYBE SHE'D ABSORB A LITTLE OF THE GOOD LUCK BEFORE GIVING IT TO BETTY -- GOD KNOWS SHE NEEDDED IT. LATELY HER WHOLE LIFE SEEMED TO BE TAKING ONE STEADY DOWNWARD PLUNGE.

SUDDENLY...



IT LOOKED ALMOST COMICAL AT FIRST, LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A BAD, LOW-BUDGET HORROR MOVIE. BUT AS IT STOOD THERE, HATEFUL EXPRESSION CARVED PERMANENTLY ON ITS FACE, THE LAST THING LEE WANTED TO DO WAS LAUGH.



ONE HOUR LATER, IN THE OLD CURIO SHOP, PANDA WAS DUSTING MECHANICALLY. SHE'D LEARNED LONG AGO THAT WAS THE BEST WAY TO DO THINGS.

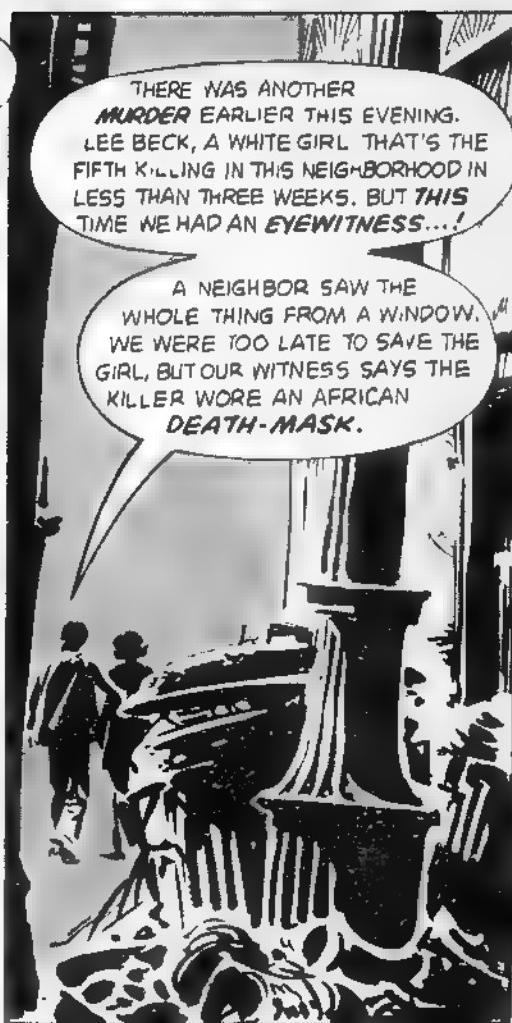


SHE WALKED, TAKING COMFORT IN THE SOUND OF HER OWN FOOTSTEPS. EVER SINCE ALEX'S MURDER, SHE FELT QUEASY ABOUT BEING OUT ON THE STREETS ALONE. SHE TOLD HERSELF SHE WAS BEING STUPID AND CHILDISH, BUT THE MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND'S SLASHED CORPSE SCORED HEAVILY FOR THE OPPOSITION.

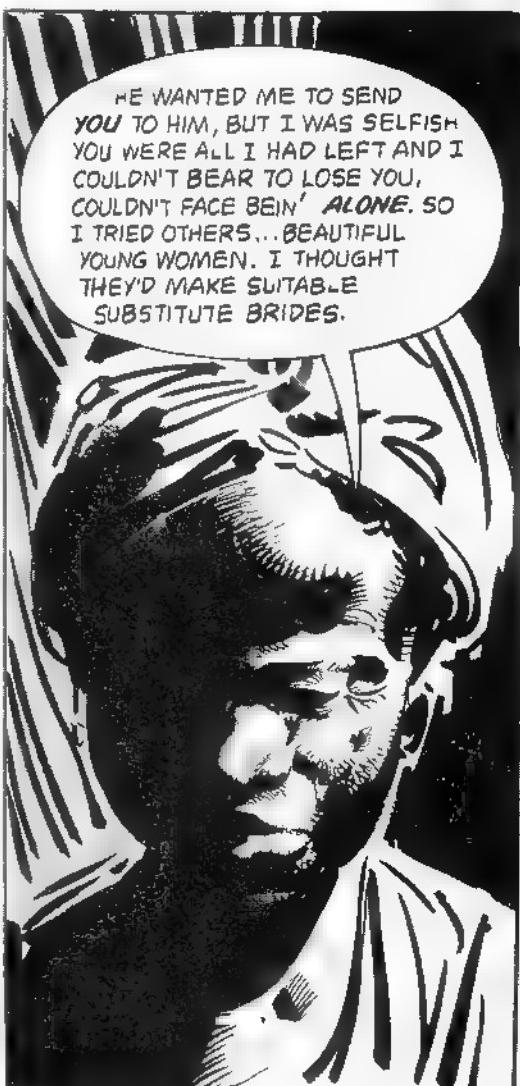
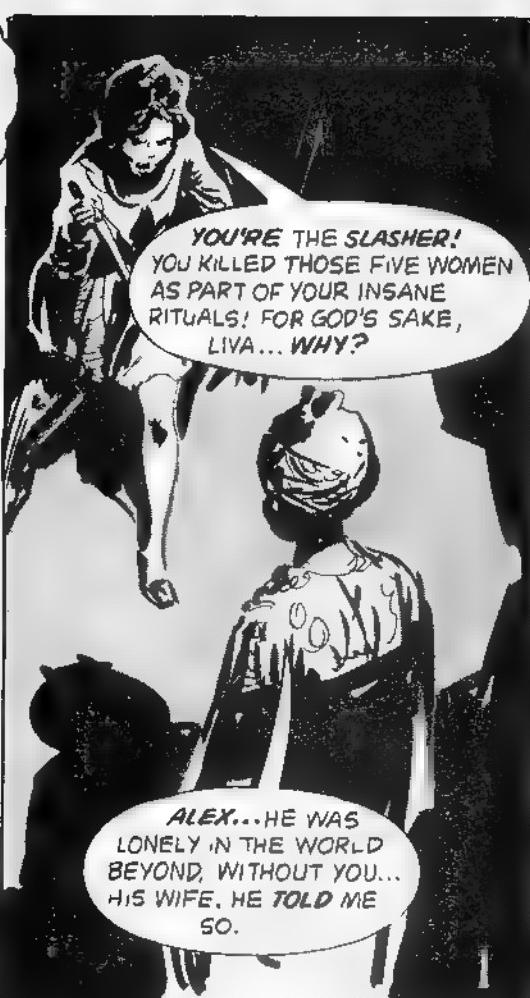


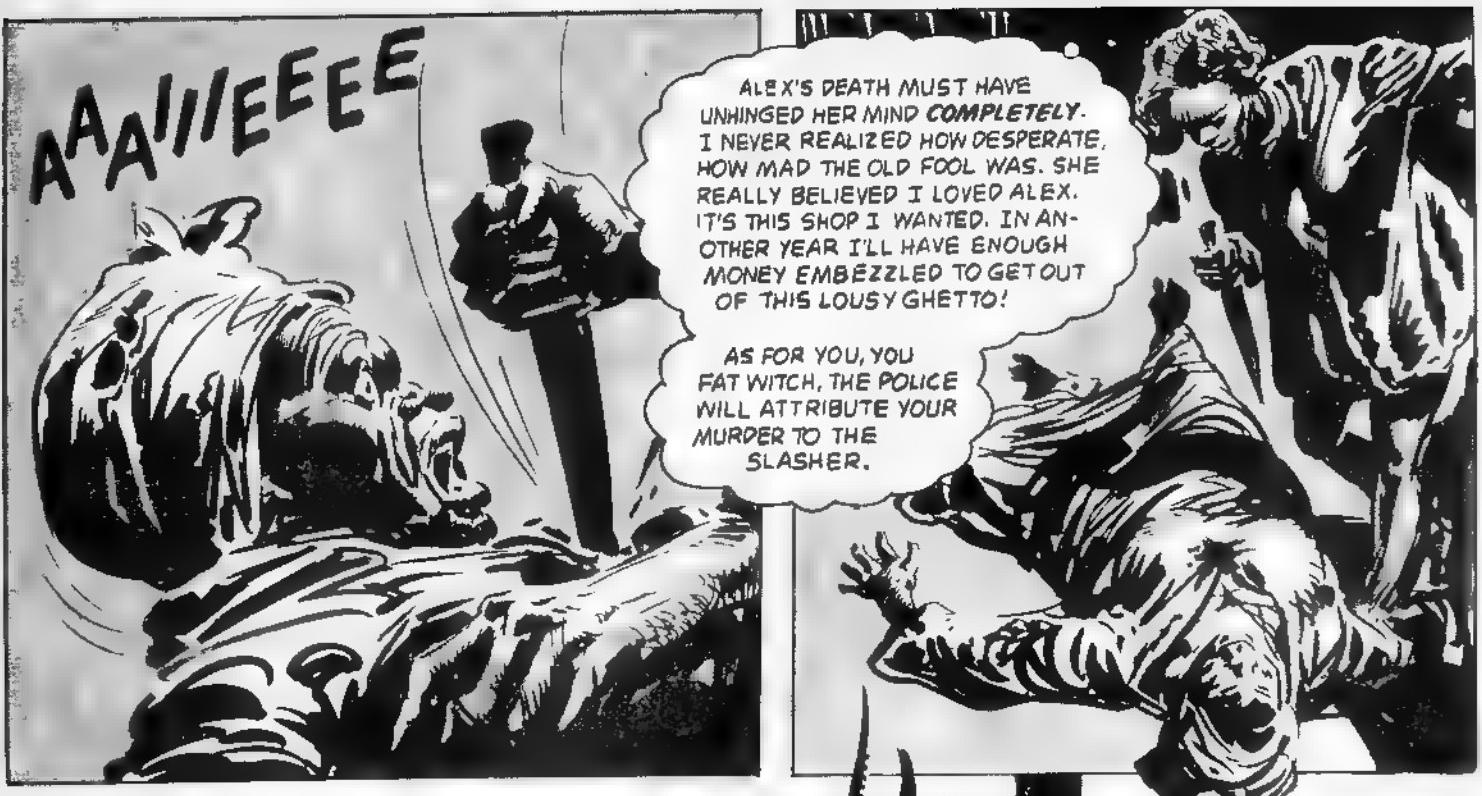
BUT EVERYWHERE THAT PANDA WENT, THE MAN WAS SURE TO GO.











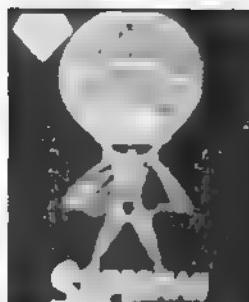
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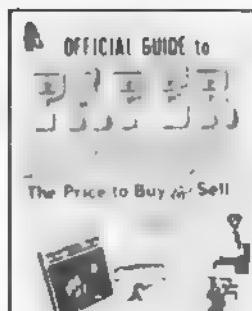
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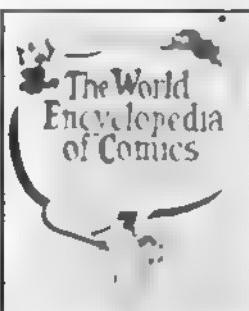
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THERE'S SOME FOLKS WHAT CALLS ME A MONSTER AND I
GUESS IF Y NEED A NAME THAT'S AS GOOD A THE 45 ANY
I KNOW'

I CAME OUT T THE SWAMP - GET AWAY FROM THE
MUSCLE THE MADNESS THE SCREECH IS A THE CITY.

SOME PEOPLE THINK I'M CRAZY COMIN' WAY OUT HERE
ACNE ! BUT LET ME TELL YA . LIFE AINT NEVER
MEANT SO MUCH OR BEEN SO FULLA PROMISE !

I GOT ME A NICE LITTLE PLACE HERE BIG ENOUGH
FOR COMFORT SMALL ENOUGH NOT TO NEED MUCH
CARE !

I GOT ALL THE FOOD I EVER GONNA NEED JUST
SLITHERINN SLOSHIN RIGHT OUTSIDE IN FRONT
PORCH!

AS FOR COMPANIONSHIP HE.. HELL! I'M ALL THE
COMPANIONSHIP I NEED!

ONCE I HAD A FRIEND OUT HERE 'A FRIEND
LIKE NO ONE EVER HAD 'AFIRE!

SOME CALLED HER A MONSTER ' BUT SAL M BLESSED,
BEAUTIFUL SAL . WAS THE KINDEST, MOST LOVIN'
CREATURE EVER TO ENDURE THE TERRORS OF GOD'S
MUCK FILLED EARTH !

Swamp Lovers

I STILL RECOLLECT THE FIRST TIME I EVER SET EYES
ON SAL. I RECKON I'DA BEEN HERE NEAR ONTO A
YEAR AT THE TIME.



I HADN'T HEARD A HUMAN VOICE FOR NIGH ONTO A
COON'S AGE ...! AND I GUESS --! WELL -- I GUESS
I WAS STARTIN' TFEEL THE NEED FOR A FEMININE
TOUCH.



AIN'T MUCH Y'KIN DO WHEN THE NEED SLINKS UPON YA
LIKE THAT, Y'KIN LAY BACK'N DREAM'A ALL THE
WOMEN Y'USED TO KNOW...



...OR'CAN CONJURE ON
ONE SPECIAL GAL, REMEMBERIN'
THE WAY SHE WORE HER HAIR ...
OR THE SMELL OF HER WHISPERIN'
SWEET PERFUME



I REMEMBER... I WAS DREAMIN' UP THE MOST
PLEASANT MEMORIES'A THIS GAL I KNEW DOWN
IN BATON ROUGE! YEAH... SALLY WAS HER NAME.



BUT I ALWAYS CALLED HER MY SWEET SAL...! SHE
HAD THE PERTEST LITTLE FORM THIS SIDE'A THE
MISSISSIP!

OH, THE FEVER ... THE NEED SO STRONG UPON ME...!
I'DA GIVEN ANYTHING THAVE HAD THAT WOMAN
AT MY SIDE...!



THEN, SUDDENLY... THERE SHE WAS! STANDIN' OVER ME... LOOKIN' DOWN WITH A LOOK THAT DIDN'T NEED NO WORDS T'EXPLAIN!



I DIDN'T QUESTION IT, I DIDN'T CARE HOW SHE CAME T'BEE THERE WHEN I NEEDED HER MOST...!



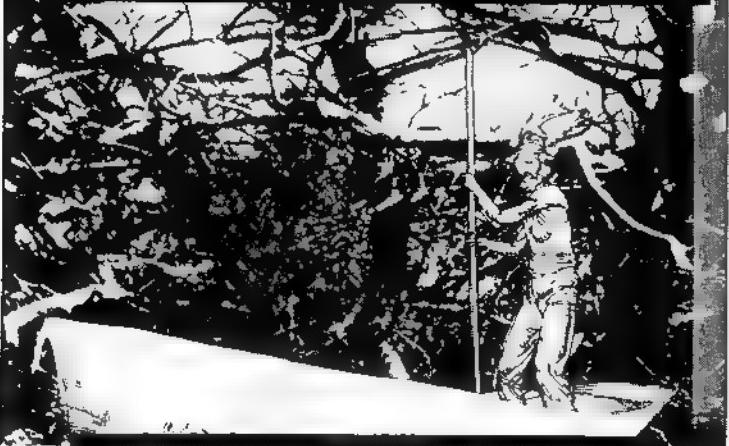
I DID WHAT COME NATURAL...! AND AFTER A YEAR...
I PLUMB SURPRISED MYSELF THAT I HADN'T
FORGOTTEN ALL THAT CITY LIVIN' HAD TAUGHT ME!



THEN... WHEN I WOKE AN' SAW SAL WAS GONE... I
JUST KNEW I'D HAD ME ONE INSANE... BUT
ECSTACTICALLY PLEASANT DREAM!

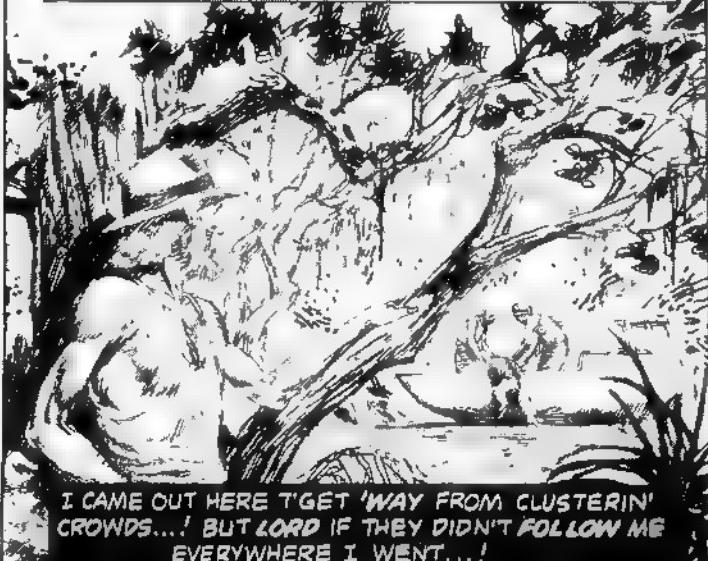


LIFE WENT ON PERT MUCH AS BEFORE! I NEVER FORGOT SAL... OR THE DREAM...! BUT I DIDN'T DWELL ON 'EM, EITHER.



I KNEW FULL WELL THAT THE NEED FOR COMPANIONSHIP WOULD COME'A CALLIN' SOON ENOUGH WITHOUT ME AGGRIVATIN' IT.

ASIDE FROM THAT... Y'MIGHT SAY I GOT MORE'N MY FIL'L'A HUMANITY.



I CAME OUT HERE T'GET 'WAY FROM CLUSTERIN' CROWDS...! BUT LORD IF THEY DIDN'T FOLLOW ME EVERYWHERE I WENT...!

POACHERS...! LOOKIN' FOR A FAST BUCK AT THE EXPENSE'A SOME POOR GATOR'S LIFE!



LORD KNOWS...! THERE WAS A FEW 'NUFF CRITTERS IN THE SWAMP WITHOUT THEM MONEY-HUNGRY SCROUNGERS PREYIN' ROUND T'KILL EVEN MORE...!

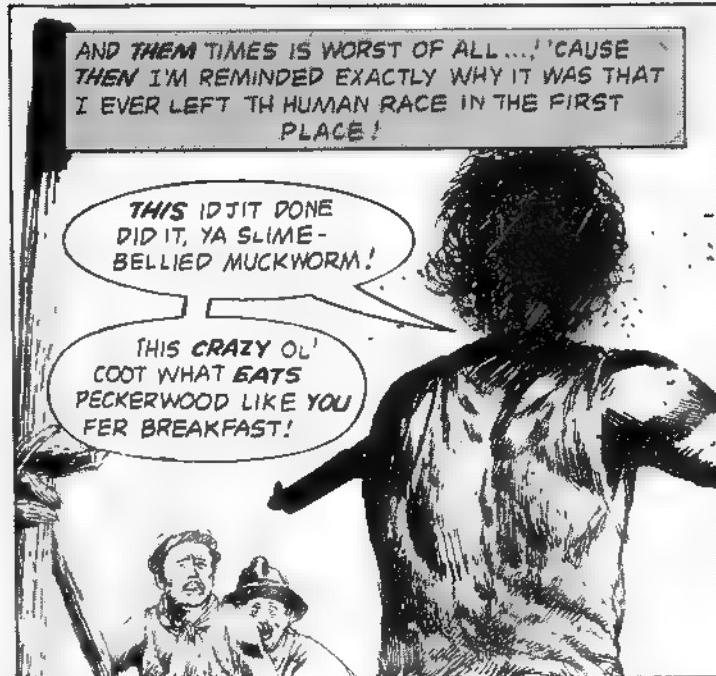


THEY'D COME... AND SKITTER UP MY QUIET WITH THEIR HIGH-POWERED GUNS...!



THEN THEY'D SLINK OFF... AS SNEAKIN' AS THEY CAME... DRAGGIN' THE RIDDLED CARCASS'A SOME POOR BEAST OFF TBE MAIMED INTO A PURSE OR A SHOE.





HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! TIMES LIKE THAT I LIKE NOTHIN' BETTER THAN T'PUT ON M'OL MAD-JACK-LUNATIC ROUTINE!



IT ASSURES THAT I WON'T NEVER BE BOthered BY THE SAME MUCK-CHURNERS TWICE . . .

'CAUSE ONCE THEY THINKS I'M CRAZY...THEY STAY AWAY IN DROVES!



ALL OF THEM, THAT IS . 'CEPTIN' MY OL' SAL...! SHE'S THE ONLIES VISITOR I EVER HAD WHAT CAME 'ROUND MORE'N ONCE . . . !



IT WAS RIGHT AFTER I Drove THEM SKINNERS OFF, AN LAID MYSELF DOWN FOR A LITTLE PEACEFULNESS WHEN SHE COME TO ME FOR THE SECOND TIME!



I GUESS I MUST'A BEEN DOZIN' A LITTLE . . . AND STARTIN' T'DREAM THE KINDA DREAM A MAN HAS WHEN IT'S GETTIN' T'BEE THAT TIME . . . !



I WASN'T COMPLETELY DROPPED OFF T'SLEEP WHEN I HEARD A SLOSHIN' IN THE SWAMP JUST BY M'FRONT DOOR . . . !



AN' THINKIN' FOR SURE IT WAS THEM SKIN-SCALPERS COMIN' BACK T'MAKE TROUBLE . . . I DARTED UP AND GRABBED M'GUN . . .





WHAT I AM IS
NOT IMPORTANT! THAT
I EXIST FOR YOU...IS
ALL THAT MATTERS!

SHE...IT...THE HORROR IN THE GUISE OF HEAVEN, REACHED
OUT TO ME THEN...AND I...I SIMPLY COULDN'T BRING
MYSELF TO TAKE HER LIFE!



TOGETHER WE FOUND MORE CONTENTMENT...PEACE...
AND UTTER PLEASURE THAN I'D EVER EXPERIENCED
BEFORE!

...BASKING IN THE GLOW OF OUR LOVE, SILENT AND
KNOWING, NEITHER OF US FEELING A NEED FOR
WORDS!



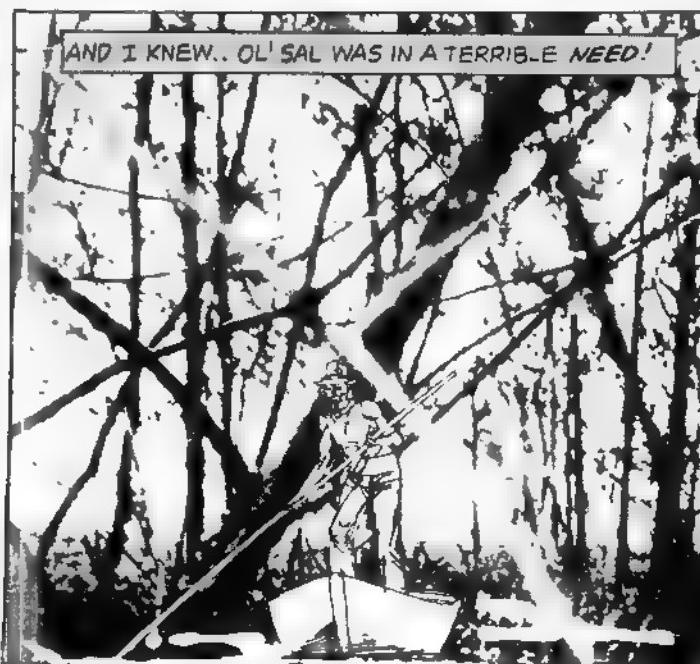
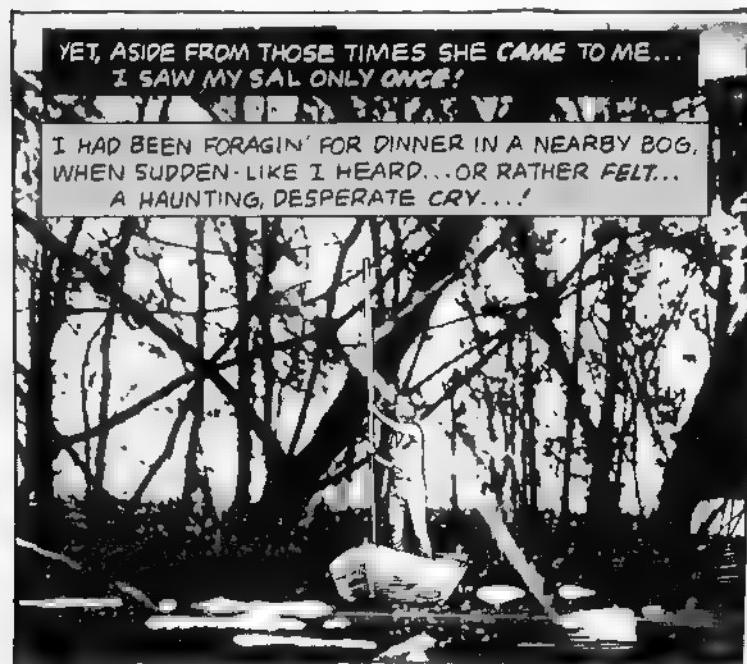
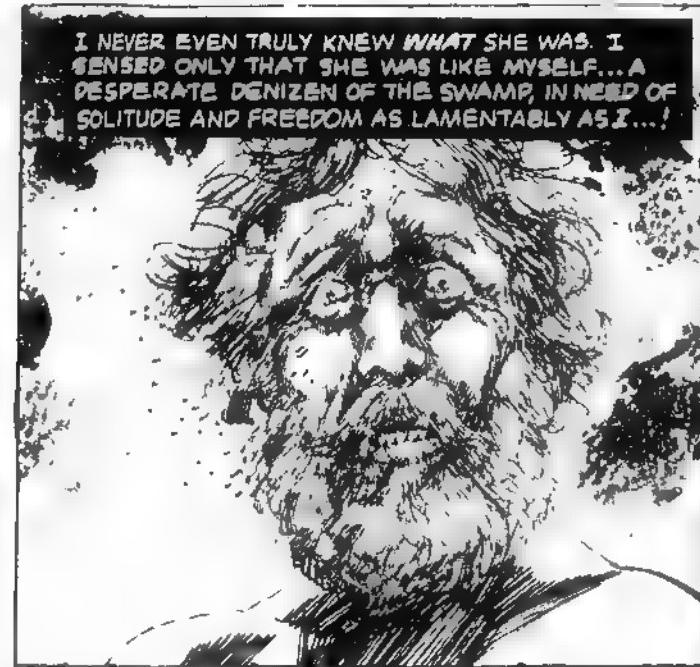
IT WAS SOME TIME BEFORE SHE LEFT ME. YET,
WHEN IT CAME, EACH OF US KNEW IT WAS THE
RIGHT TIME...TIME AGAIN FOR SOLITUDE AND SELF-
REFLECTION!



YET, I KNEW I WOULD SEE HER AGAIN. SOMEHOW, I
UNDERSTOOD...I HAD ONLY TO THINK...TO FEEL...AND
SHE WOULD MAGICALLY APPEAR...THIS SWAMP
CREATURE OF A THOUSAND PLEASURABLE FACES!

I SAW HER AGAIN...! MANY TIMES AFTER THAT. ON MY LONIEST NIGHTS SHE WOULD COME TO ME...NEEDING ME AS DESPERATELY AS I YEARNED FOR HER!

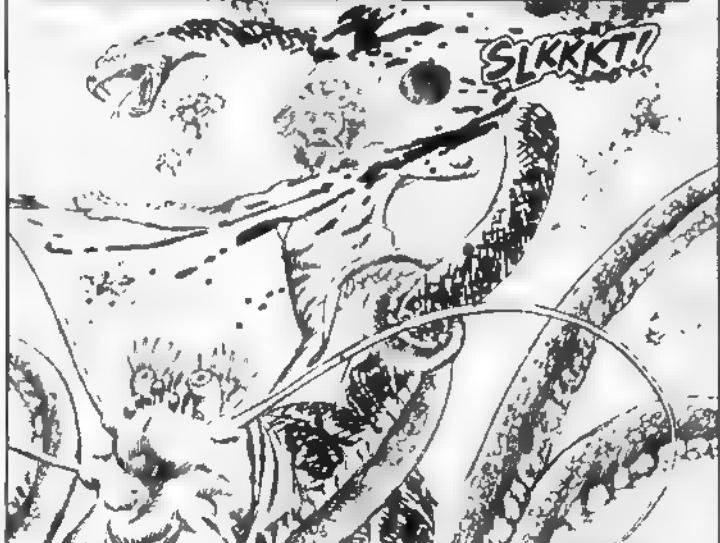
IT WAS ON THOSE NIGHTS SHE TAUGHT ME.. THAT EVEN A HERMIT AS INSANE AND RESTLESS AS I.. REQUIRES THE WARMTH OF ANOTHER LOVING BEING!



THE SNAKE WAS THE BIGGEST I'D EVER SEEN! IT WAS WHEEZIN' N'GRUNTIN' N'CRUSHIN' THE LIFE OUTTA THE THING I KNEW WAS MY SAL....!



I WASN'T EVEN THINKIN' WHEN I LEAPED AT THE BEAST...! ALL THE FURY AND THE FEAR LOCKED UP INSIDE'A ME, WHISTLED THROUGH THE AIR IN ONE SCREAMIN' BLOW....!



IT WAS OVER IN AN INSTANT. AND I WAS ON M'KNEES, SICK'N SHAKIN' WITH SHOCK AND REVULSION!



WHEN I FELT STRONG ENOUGH T'LOOK UP AGAIN... THE SLUDGE'N SLIME CREATURE I HAD SAVED... WAS GONE! AN' IN ITS PLACE WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL I HAD EVER SEEN... REACHIN' UP T'THANK ME!

BUT I WAS IN NO MIND FOR THANKS...! NO MOOD FOR LOVE! I'D GOTTEN AN EYEFUL OF THE PUTRID BEIN' THAT COULD ALTER ITSELF AT WILL! AND SEEIN' MADE MY STOMACH CHURN.



I KNEW SHE COULD SENSE MY FEELINGS... FEEL MY THOUGHTS...! AND I KNEW, TOO, THAT WHAT I FELT, HURT HER DEEP INSIDE!

BUT STILL...STILL I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF' I STALKED INTO THE SWAMP T'AGAIN BE ALONE...



...TO SORT OUT THE COBWEBS THAT WERE MESSIN' UP M'MIND...



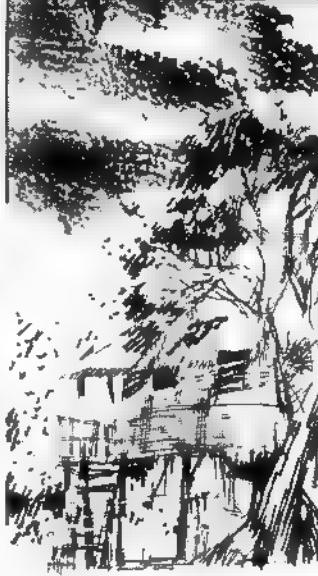
IT WAS MONTHS...LONG, HARD MONTHS BEFORE I ALLOWED MYSELF TO THINK OF HER...AND THE PLEASURES THAT WE'D SHARED...!



I THOUGHT FOR SURE I WOULD NEVER CALL TO HER AGAIN....



BUT AS TIME LINGERED ON...AND M'LONELINESS INCREASED, I CAME T'UNDERSTAND...



...WE WAS NOTHIN' MORE THAN TWO DESPERATE CREATURES...REACHIN' AN' GIVIN' AND SHARIN' IN THE ONLY WAY WE KNEW...!



ONCE I ACCEPTED THAT...I WAS ABLE TO REACH FOR HER AGAIN...! T'ASK HER FORGIVENESS...AND SHARE AGAIN IN HER JOYS!

AFTER ALL, I KNEW...THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' WRONG WITH DREAMS... 'SPECIALLY WHEN THAT DREAM COULD TRANSFORM HERSELF INTO SOMETHIN' AS REAL N'TENDER AS SAL....!



I REMEMBER, TOO...THAT LAST TERRIBLE NIGHT...THE NIGHT WE VOWED T'SHARE OUR LIVES ENORMORE.

IN THE HEAVENLY NIGHT,
AS HIGH AS HEAVEN AS A MAN
LIES, HE WILL BEAR KNOWIN'



SAL'IN ME WAS LOOKIN' AT THE STARS....! HOPIN' N'DREAMIN' A TIME I COMB' TIMES WE'D BE SHARIN' TOGETHER!



LORD ONLY KNOWS WHY THEM BUTCHERS CAME THEN...!
WHY THEY PICKED THAT FATEFUL SECOND TO APPEAR FROM
THEIR SLIMIN' HOLES!



WHEN THE SHOTS RANG OUT... I KNEW IN AN INSTANT
WHAT IT WAS! AN' I FELT SAL... M'BEAUTIFUL,
PRECIOUS SAL... GO LIMP N'LIMBESS IN MY VERY
ARMS!

THEY SAID THEY WAS JUST TRYIN' TO SAVE ME...!
THEY THOUGHT I WAS BEIN' EATEN ALIVE... BYA
HIDEOUS THING UNLIKE THEY HAD EVER SEEN
BEFORE...!

ANOTHER TIME... ANOTHER
PLACE... M'RAGE WOULDAA
KNOWED NO BOUNDS! I
WOULDAA RIPPED THE
BUTCHERS WITH VENGEANCE
LIKE NO ONE'D EVER SEEN!

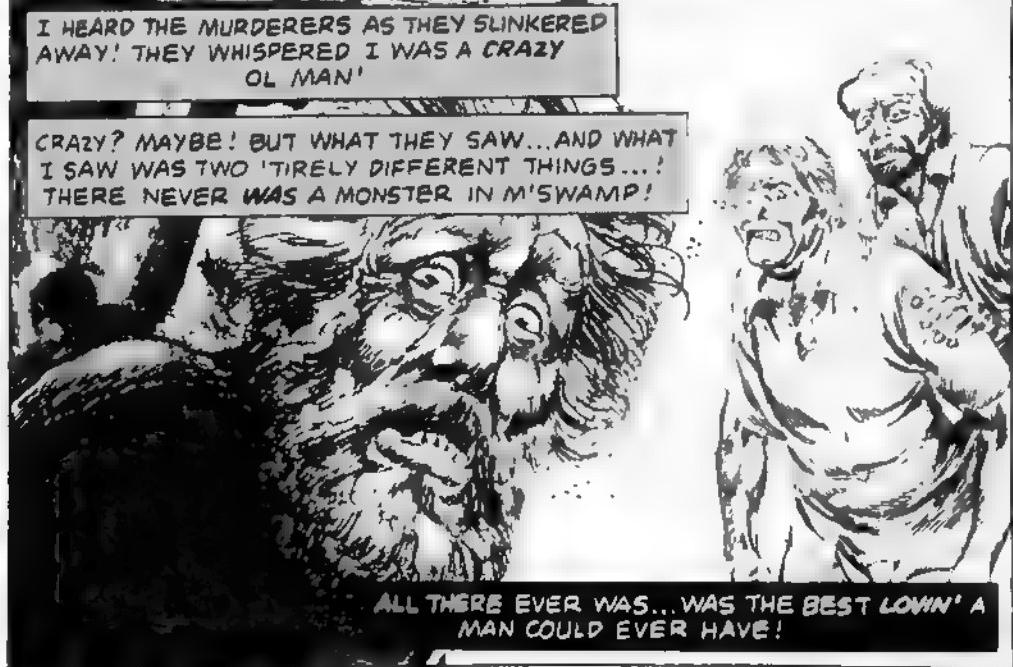


BUT I KNEW M'SAL... M'BEAUTI-
FUL, LOVIN' SAL WOULD NEVER'A
WANTED IT LIKE THAT. SO I
CRUMPLED N'CRIED... N'SPILLED
MY GRIEF UNASHAMEDLY ON
M'DEAD LOVER'S FORM!



I HEARD THE MURDERERS AS THEY SLINKED
AWAY! THEY WHISPERED I WAS A CRAZY
OL' MAN!

CRAZY? MAYBE! BUT WHAT THEY SAW... AND WHAT
I SAW WAS TWO 'TIRELY DIFFERENT THINGS...!
THERE NEVER WAS A MONSTER IN M'SWAMP!



ALL THERE EVER WAS... WAS THE BEST LOVIN' A
MAN COULD EVER HAVE!

END

HELLO, DARLING SORRY
IM LATE. BUSY DAY AT THE
OFFICE AND ALL THAT.

AT 28, BURT ROMAN WAS AN OLD MAN. TO BE FAIR, HE HAD ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL, BEING A PROMISING JUNIOR EXECUTIVE DUE FOR A BIG PROMOTION SHORTLY. HE HAD DONE ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, WORN ALL THE RIGHT CLOTHES, MET ALL THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND MARRIED THE RIGHT WOMAN. 1984 HAD BEEN A GOOD YEAR. BURT PROMISED TO BE EVEN BETTER.

BUT SOMETHING WAS WRONG: HE WASN'T HAPPY.

MOSTLY 'ALL THAT',
SUSPECT ANYWAY, THERE'S
DINNER IN THE OVEN ...

SPEAKING OF TV,
WHY ARE YOU WATCHING
THE NEWS? I THOUGHT
YOU HATED THE NEWS.

I DO, BUT THE ONLY
OTHER THING ON IS 'THE
FBI' AND I HATE THAT
EVEN MORE. IT'S TOO
REALISTIC.

REALITY TWICE REMOVED

THIS IS WALTER EASTMAN WITH THE WOLF EVENING REPORT. OUR TOP STORY: AN ORGANIZATION CALLING ITSELF THE USPA HAS DECLARED WAR AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND GUESS WHICH CITY WAS LEVELLED BY AN ATOMIC BOMB?

THE ANSWER IN A MOMENT BUT FIRST THIS MESSAGE.

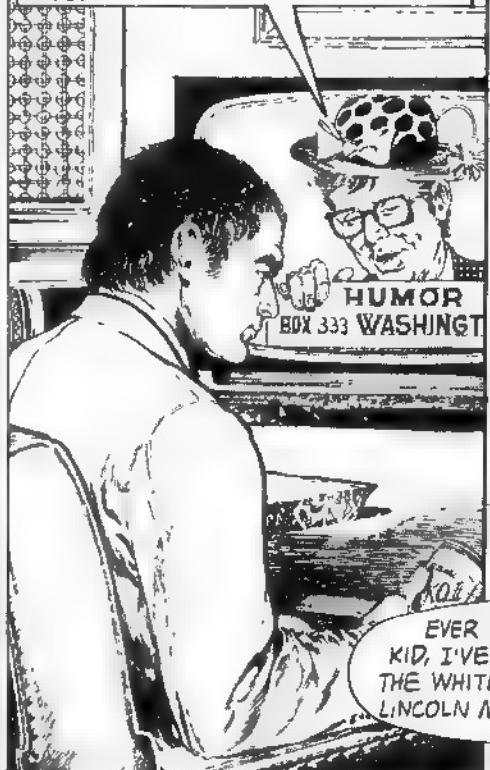
TOO REALISTIC?
THAT'S A LAUGH. WHAT
HAS SOCIETY COME TO?

NOT ONLY ARE WE AFRAID TO GO OUT AND LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD, BUT WE'RE FRIGHTENED BY MERE REFLECTIONS OF IT.

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE EDUCATED AND I'M NOT, DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO --



A MUST FOR COLLECTORS, THESE RECORDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN ANY STORE! TO ORDER YOURS, SIMPLY RUSH A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER—\$32.99 FOR RECORDS \$36.99 FOR TAPES —TO:

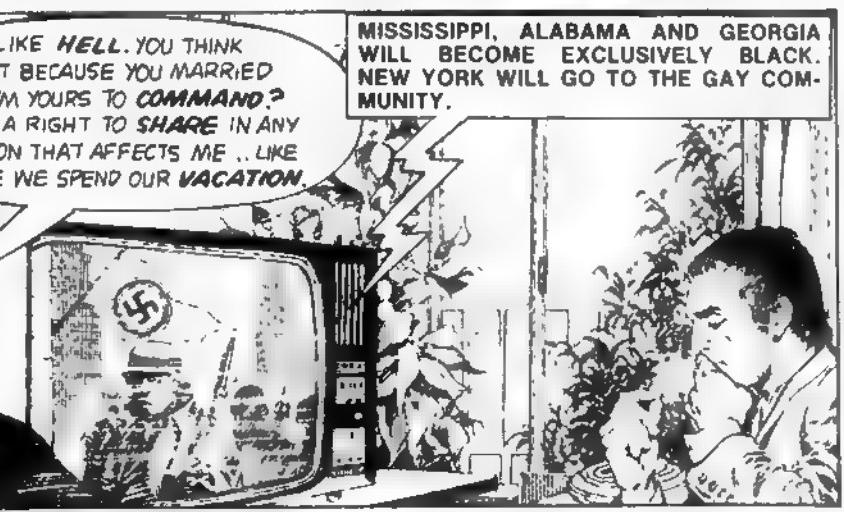


AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAYTONA BEACH THIS MORNING, THE U.S.P.A. (UNITED SPIRITUAL-POLITICAL ARMY) DECLARED WAR ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

A COALITION OF RIGHT-WING SPLENTTER GROUPS, IT INCLUDES THE KU KLUX KLAN, AMERICAN NAZI PARTY, JDL, PLO, UNIFICATION CHURCH AND AN ULTRA CONSERVATIVE BRANCH OF THE YOUNG REPUBLICANS, AMONG OTHERS.

THE Factions were coordinated by MISTER CHARISMA, A FORMER ROCK SINGER TURNED POLITICAL ACTIVIST.

CORRESPONDENT MEREDITH WARBLER TAPED THIS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH U.S.P.A. BOARD OF GOVERNORS AS THEY LEFT THE CONFERENCE ROOM.



U.S.P.A. GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON TOWN HALLS AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS OCCURRED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN KEY COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. MAJOR SIEGES TOOK PLACE IN NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

HEAR WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE'S GOING ON IN WASHINGTON RIGHT NOW?

IN BOISE, IDAHO, GUERRILLAS PURGED THE STATE CAPITOL, KILLING THE MAYOR, HIS RECEPTIONIST, TWO JANITORS, AND A COFFEE BOY.

INFORMED SOURCES SAY INFIGHTING HAS, NOW, INCREASED AMONG THE USPA MEMBERS.

ONE OF THE HOTTEST CONTESTS THUS FAR TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE TIMES SQUARE, AROUND 3:15 EST. GAYLORD GALLOP HAS THAT STORY...

IS THAT HOW YOU WANT TO SPEND OUR SECOND HONEYMOON .. DODGING BULLETS?

IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO SPEND IT IN BED WITH YOU--IN FLORIDA--YOU'RE MISTAKEN.

VACATION IS STILL A MONTH AWAY. THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE EVERYTHING STRAIGHTENED OUT BY THEN

THANK YOU WALTER. I'M HERE WITH CAPT. ROGER PELLETIER OF THE N.Y. NATIONAL GUARD. HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS YOUR PRESENT SITUATION, SIR?

IT'LL BE A CLOSE MATCH, GAYLORD; NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THEY'RE A STRONG TEAM, BUT WE HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE UNDER OUR BELTS. I THINK THAT'LL PROVE TO BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR, AND I'M CONFIDENT OF VICTORY.

BUT ISN'T IT TRUE YOU'VE SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS DISCUSSION! I WORK MY TAIL OFF ALL YEAR LONG --FOR TWO CRUMMY WEEKS VACATION--AND I CAN TAKE IT WHEREVER THE HELL I WANT!

NOW WHO'S ACTING SPOILED?





I WILL USE WHATEVER FORCE NECESSARY TO PRESERVE MY POSITION OF POWER. ANYONE—I REPEAT, ANYONE—WHO SEEKS TO SUBVERT THE DIGNITY AND AUTHORITY OF THIS OFFICE WILL FACE THE MOST DIRE CONSEQUENCES.



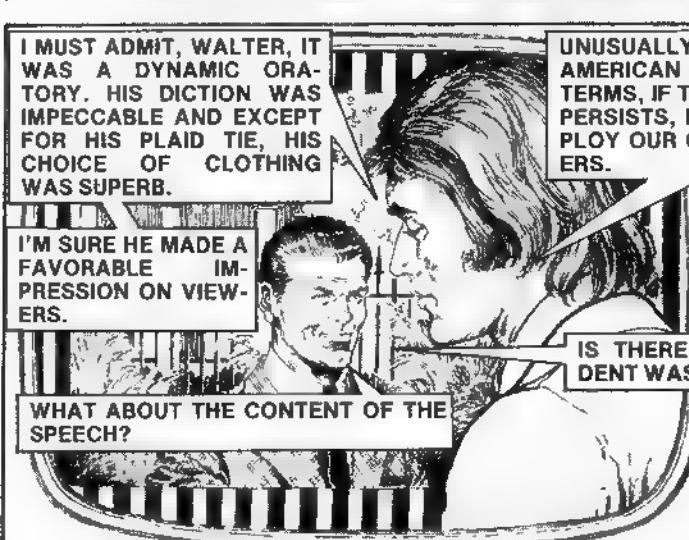
NOW WITH AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IS WASHINGTON COMMENTATOR SAM SOMEWHAT.



YOU THINK I'M BLUFFING, BURT? I'M NOT!



IVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT SEPARATE VACATIONS FOR A WHILE NOW...



I MUST ADMIT, WALTER, IT WAS A DYNAMIC ORATORY. HIS DICTION WAS IMPECCABLE AND EXCEPT FOR HIS PLAID TIE, HIS CHOICE OF CLOTHING WAS SUPERB.

I'M SURE HE MADE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON VIEWERS.

WHAT ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE SPEECH?

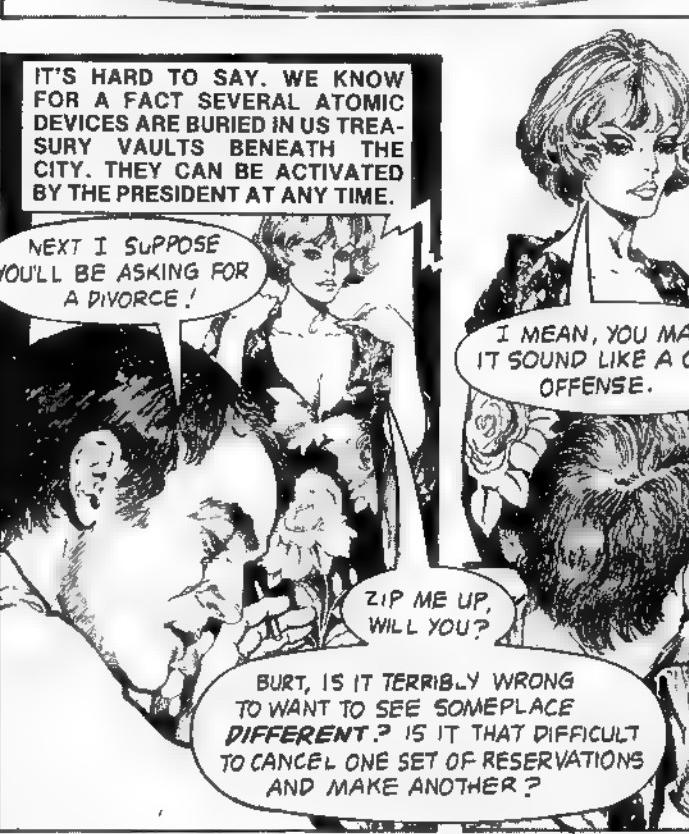


UNUSUALLY FRANK. HE TOLD THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS, IF THE PRESENT INSURRECTION PERSISTS, HE WON'T HESITATE TO DEPLOY OUR COUNTRY'S NUCLEAR POWERS.

IS THERE A CHANCE THE PRESIDENT WAS BLUFFING?



...IT'S TIME YOU THOUGHT OF IT TOO.

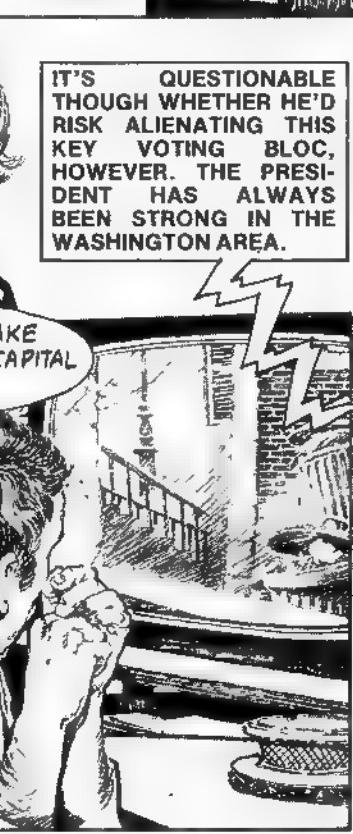


IT'S HARD TO SAY. WE KNOW FOR A FACT SEVERAL ATOMIC DEVICES ARE BURIED IN US TREASURY VAULTS BENEATH THE CITY. THEY CAN BE ACTIVATED BY THE PRESIDENT AT ANY TIME.

NEXT I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE ASKING FOR A DIVORCE!

ZIP ME UP, WILL YOU?

BURT, IS IT TERRIBLY WRONG TO WANT TO SEE SOMEPLACE DIFFERENT? IS IT THAT DIFFICULT TO CANCEL ONE SET OF RESERVATIONS AND MAKE ANOTHER?



IT'S QUESTIONABLE THOUGH WHETHER HE'D RISK ALIENATING THIS KEY VOTING BLOC, HOWEVER. THE PRESIDENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN STRONG IN THE WASHINGTON AREA.



ALL RIGHT, ADRIENNE, YOU WIN.

I'LL CALL THE AIRLINE IN THE MORNING

LATE THIS AFTERNOON, WORD REACHED THE PRESIDENT THAT LOS ANGELES WAS UNDER USPA OCCUPATION. HE THEN LEARNED USPA GUERRILLAS WERE ADVANCING BOLDLY ACROSS THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN.



HEY, WE HAVE TO BE THERE IN HALF AN HOUR AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED GETTING READY.



HE CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING WITH HIS TOP ADVISORS; WOLF WAS THERE!

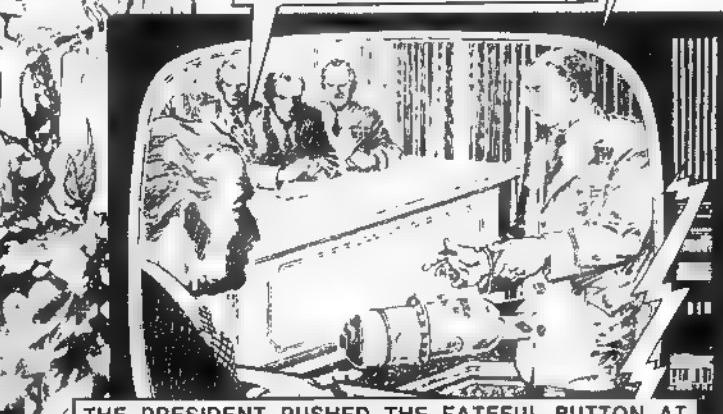
WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE? THE U.S.P.A. IS A DIRECT AFFRONT TO OUR AMERICAN WAY!

HE'S RIGHT, MR. PRESIDENT. AMERICAN SOIL IS UNDER SIEGE! IF WE'RE LENIENT WITH THESE TERRORISTS, WE'LL LOSE THE RESPECT OF THE WORLD!



BLAST THE SUCKERS! WE'RE SOLDIERS; BETTER TO DIE NOBLY IN BATTLE THAN TO LET OUR GOVERNMENT BE TAKEN OVER BY CIVILIANS!

IT SEEMS, GENTLEMEN, THAT YOU'RE RIGHT . . . WE HAVE NO CHOICE.



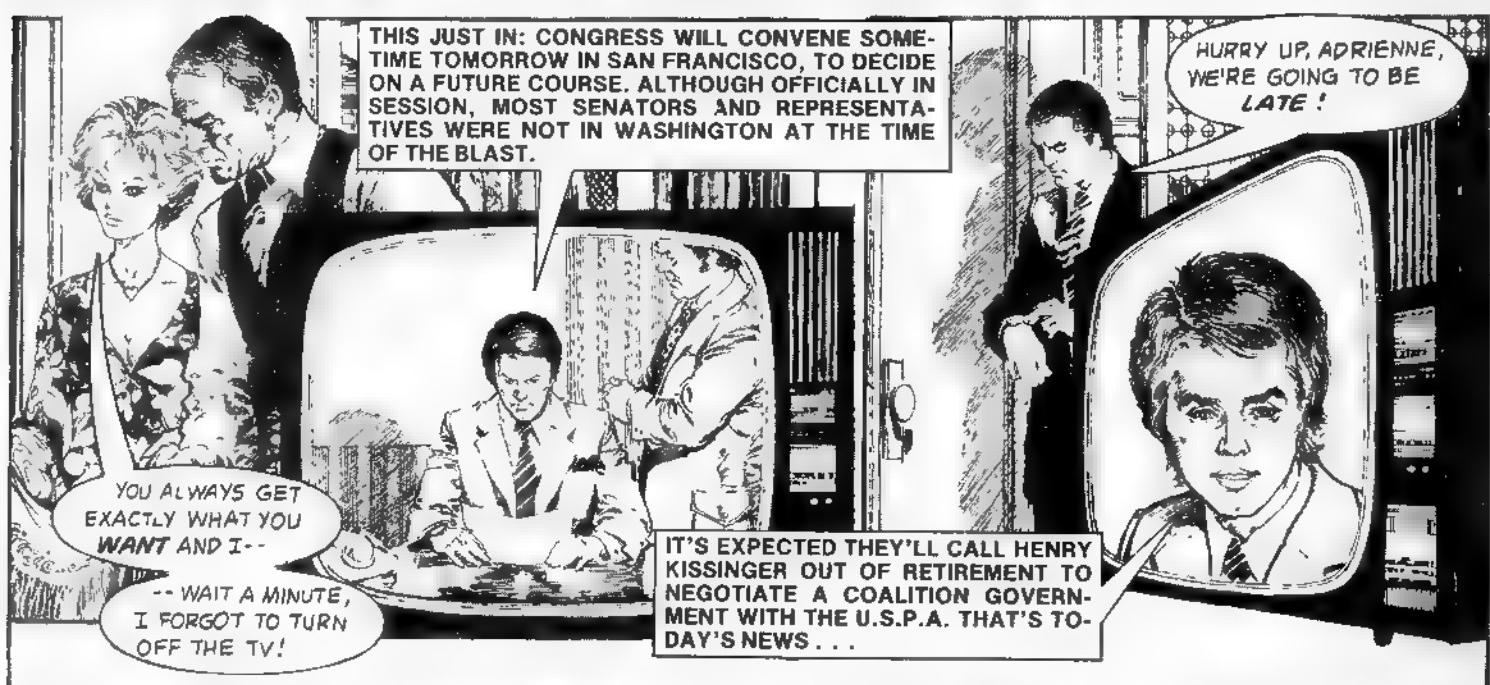
THE PRESIDENT PUSHED THE FATEFUL BUTTON AT 5:05 EST. THIS FILMED ACCOUNT COMES TO US COURTESY OF JOHN FISH, A HOME MOVIE BUFF FROM WEST VIRGINIA. HE SAW THE CLOUD FROM HIS WINDOW AND RUSHED OUTSIDE WITH HIS SUPER 8.

THE PRESIDENT, HIS FAMILY, HIS MILITARY ADVISERS, SEVERAL PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE U.S.P.A., AND MOST OF THE POPULATION OF MARYLAND DIED IN THE BLAST



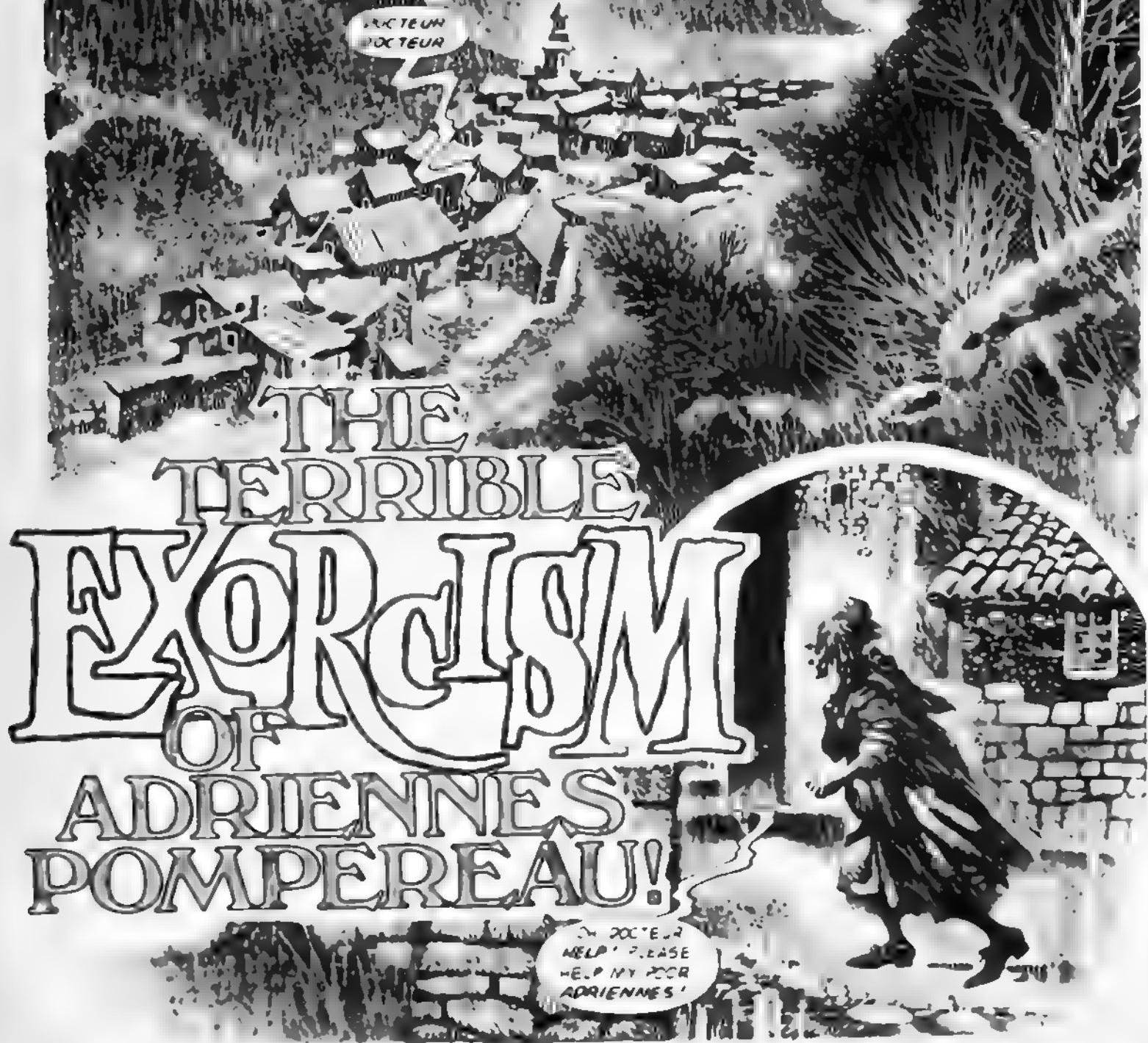
ALSO, CASES OF RADIATION POISONING WERE REPORTED IN MANY STATES ALONG THE EASTERN SEABOARD, INCLUDING NEW HAMPSHIRE.





IT WAS A TIME OF TERROR IN THE VILLAGES OF FRANCE,
AND THESE GARDEN HEDGES WERE BREATHING.

HIDDEN AWAY FROM THE HORRORS OF WAR, REFUGEE SECRETLY IN THE
BESIDE OF THE FRENCH PEASANTS, IN THE VILLAGE OF CHAMBERLAIN-LOU-
IST, EVEN IN THIS OUTRAGED PEACEFUL DOMAIN, RAGED A CONFLICT AS
FIERCE AND DEADLY AS ANY THAT SCARRED THE EARTH. FOR IT WAS HERE
THAT A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD CHILD BATTLED THE UNHOLY TORMENTS WHICH
RAVED FERVENTLY OVER FRANCE.





HOURS PASSED, LONG, TORTUROUS HOURS FOR THE HELPLESS MAN OF MEDICINE AND THE FRIGHTENED OLD WOMAN AT HIS SIDE. THERE WAS LITTLE EITHER COULD DO, BUT SIT BY THE TORMENTED GIRL AND PRAY TOGETHER FOR HER SEEMINGLY LOST SOUL. THEY REJOICED SILENTLY WHEN THE DAWN FINALLY CAME, USHERING THE SANITY OF A PROMISING NEW DAY.

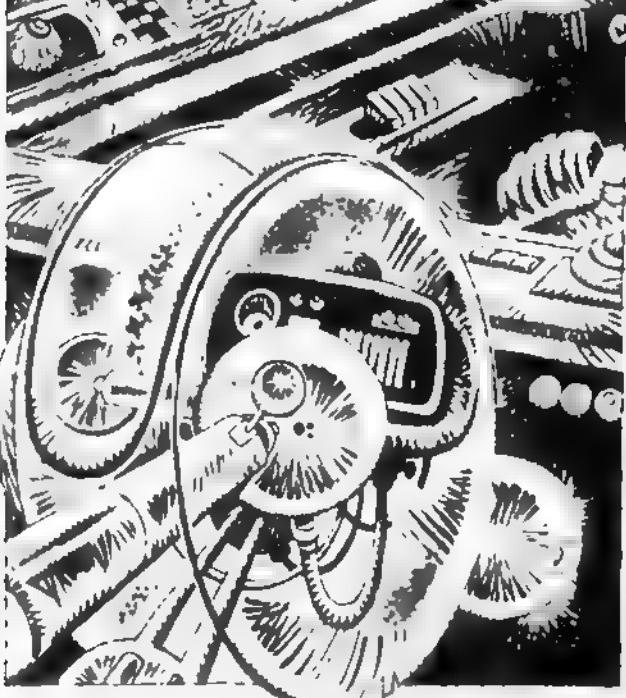












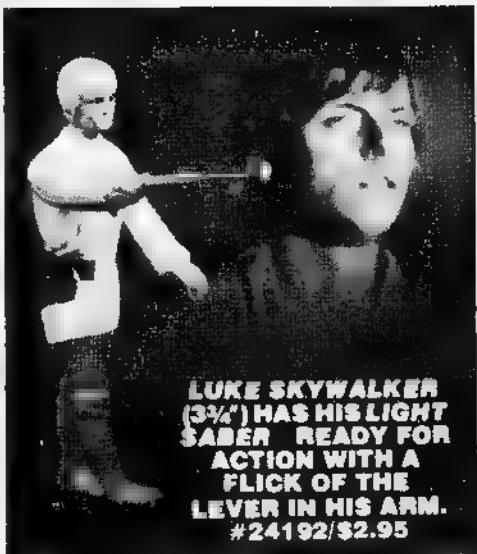
END

STAR WARS

Action Figures

ALREADY ASSEMBLED!

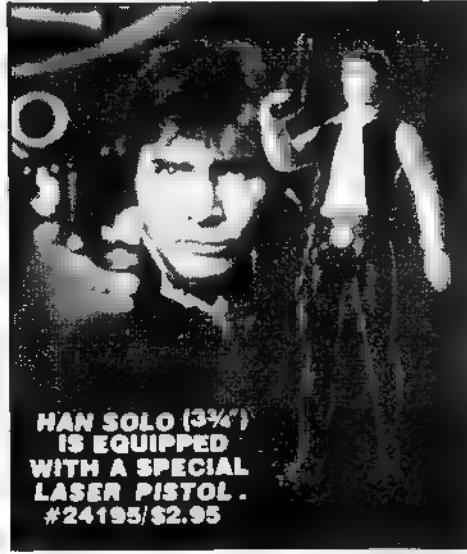
Nine exciting action figures, all in their authentic **STAR WARS** costumes. All have movable arms and legs designed for action poses. Set up a tabletop **STAR WARS**!



LUKE SKYWALKER
(3 $\frac{3}{4}$) HAS HIS LIGHT
SABER READY FOR
ACTION WITH A
FLICK OF THE
LEVER IN HIS ARM.
#24192/\$2.95



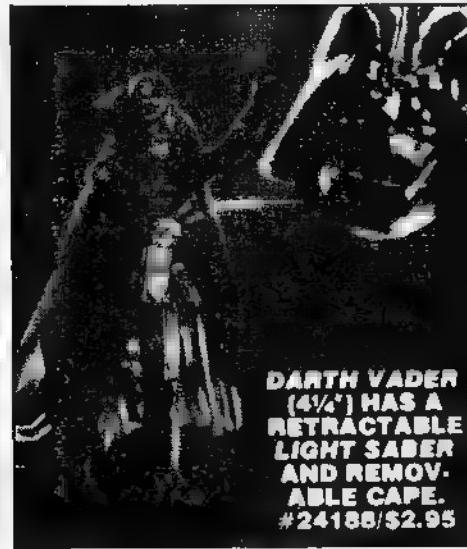
PRINCESS LEIA
ORGANA (3 $\frac{1}{2}$)
HAS A REMOV-
ABLE CAPE
AND HER OWN
LASER PISTOL.
#24194/\$2.95



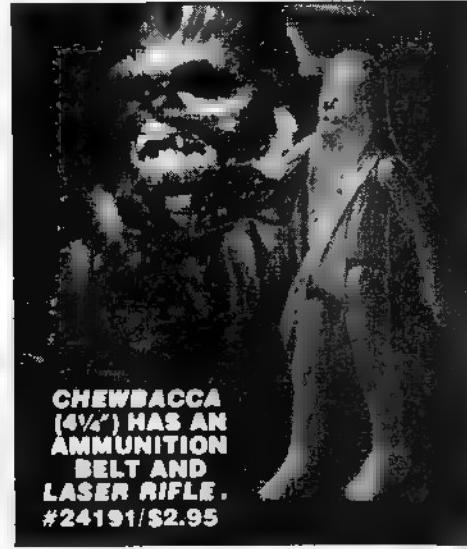
HAN SOLO (3 $\frac{3}{4}$)
IS EQUIPPED
WITH A SPECIAL
LASER PISTOL.
#24195/\$2.95



BEN (OBI-WAN)
KENOBI (3 $\frac{1}{4}$)
HAS A RETRACT-
ABLE LIGHT
SABER AND
REMOVABLE
CAPE.
#24196/\$2.95



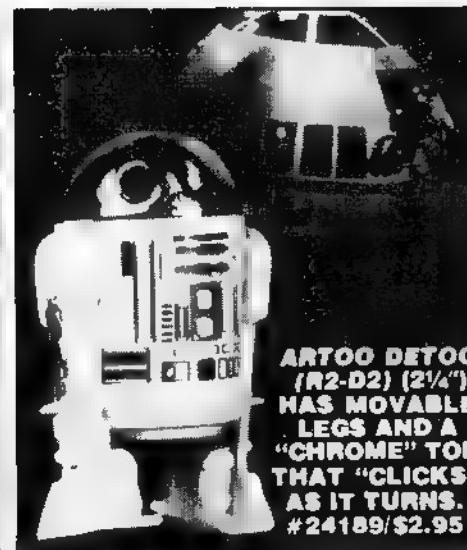
DARTH VADER
(4 $\frac{1}{4}$) HAS A
RETRACTABLE
LIGHT SABER
AND REMOV-
ABLE CAPE.
#24188/\$2.95



CHEWBACCA
(4 $\frac{1}{4}$) HAS AN
AMMUNITION
BELT AND
LASER RIFLE.
#24191/\$2.95



SEE THREPIO
(C-3PO) (3 $\frac{3}{4}$)
IS A BRILLIANT
GOLD COLOR
AND IS ARTIC-
ULATED AT
THE SHOULDERS
AND HIPS.
#24190/\$2.95



ARTOO DETOO
(R2-D2) (2 $\frac{1}{4}$)
HAS MOVABLE
LEGS AND A
"CHROME" TOP
THAT "CLICKS"
AS IT TURNS.
#24189/\$2.95



STORMTROOPER
(3 $\frac{3}{4}$) HAS A
DISTINCTIVE
WHITE AND
BLACK SPACE SUIT
AND LASER RIFLE.
#24193/\$2.95

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To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine
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**STAR WARS
FLYING
MODEL
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**STAR
WARS**



STAR WARS FLYING MODEL ROCKETRY OUTFIT A hobby kit not a toy! It is not for those under 12. Battery & glue not included. Assemble and launch Luke's Torpedo! #24201/\$12.95

STAR WARS MODELS

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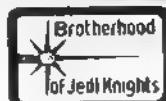


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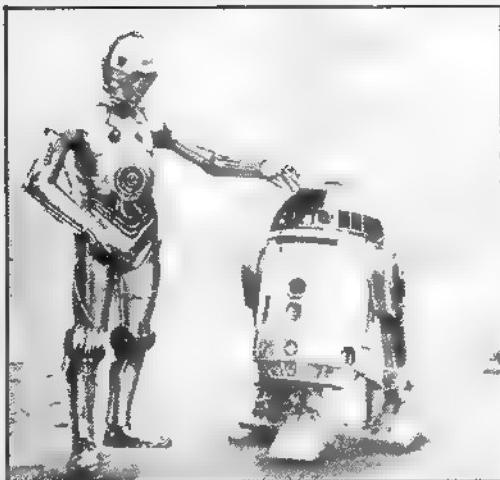


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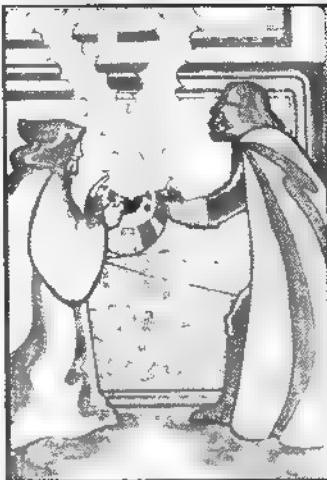
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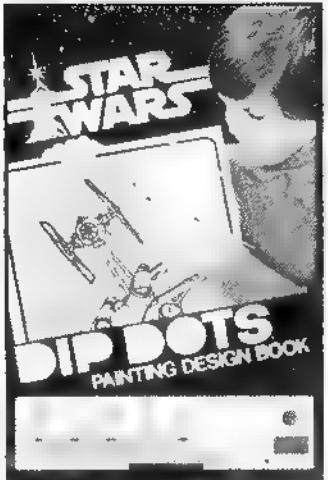
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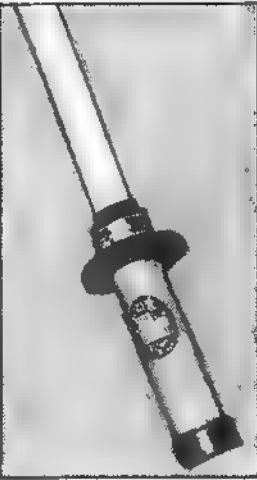
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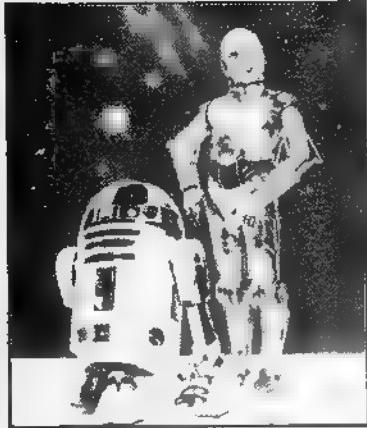
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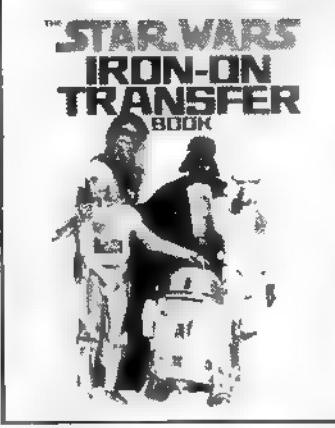
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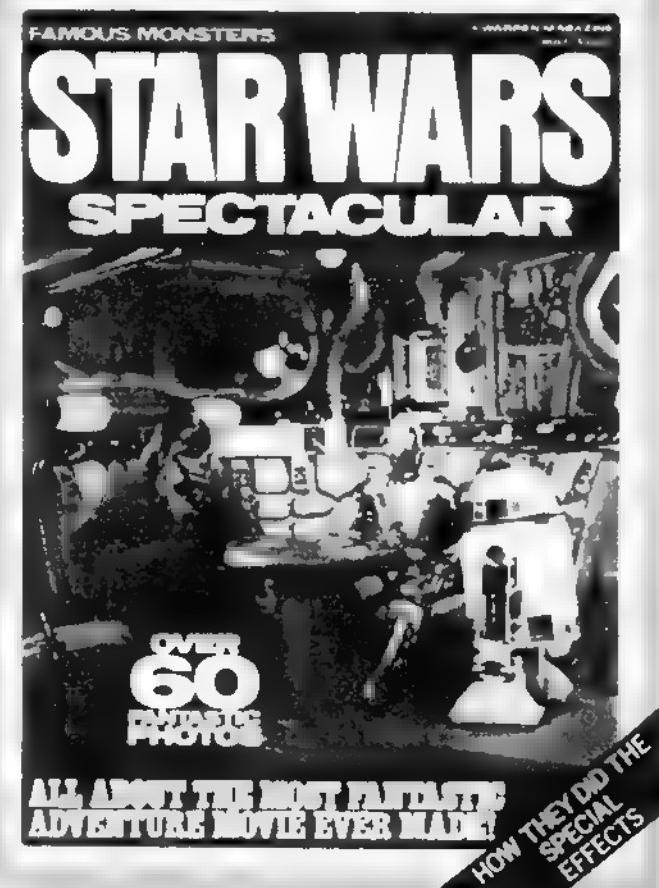
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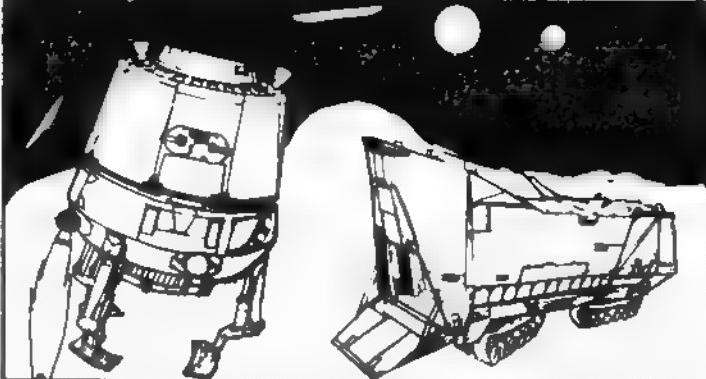
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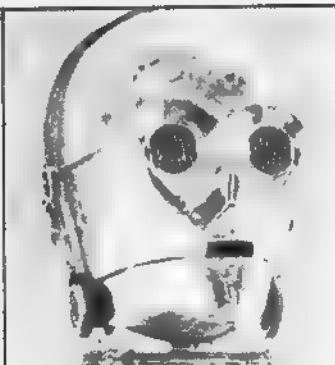


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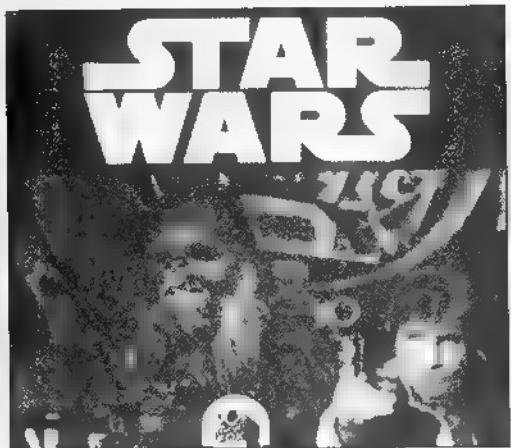


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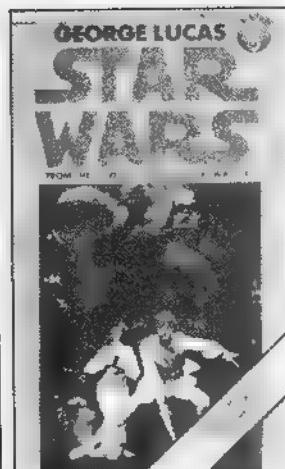
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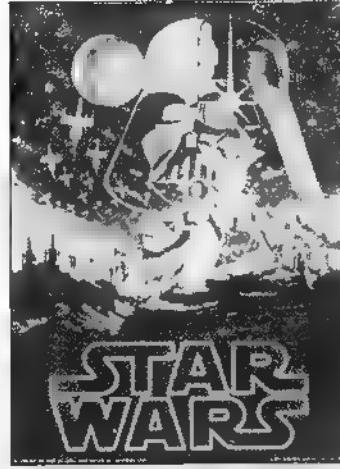
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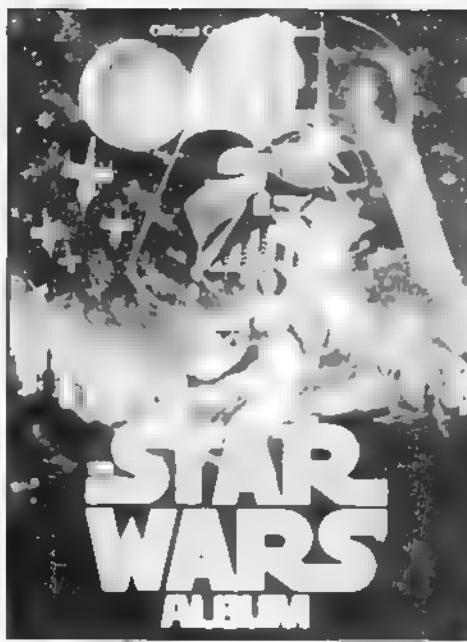
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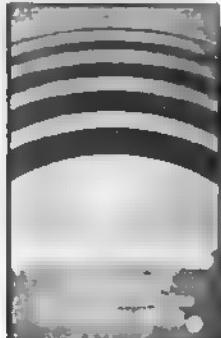
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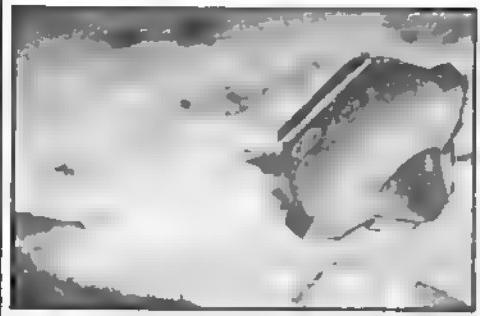


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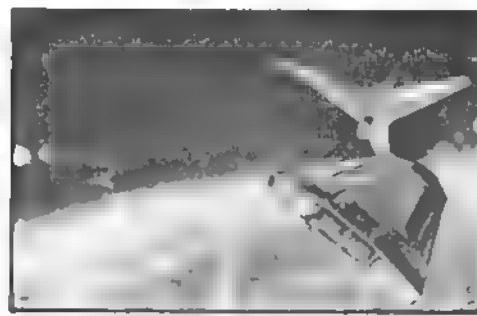
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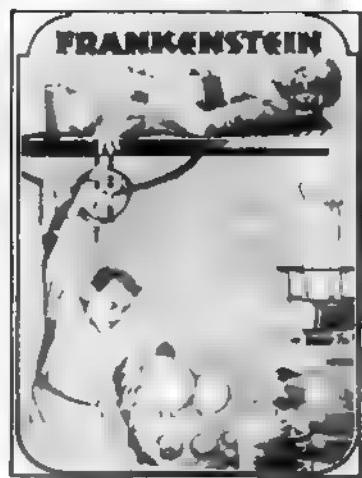
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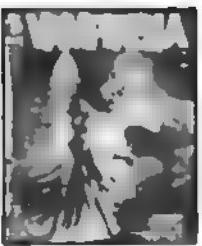
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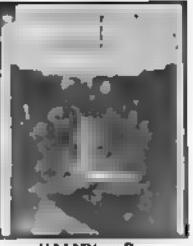
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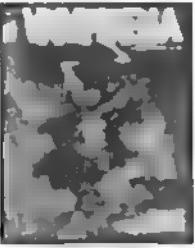
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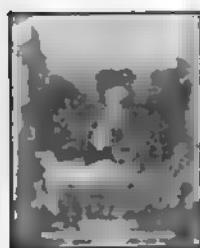
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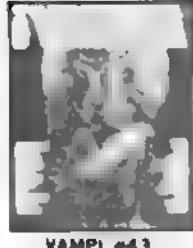
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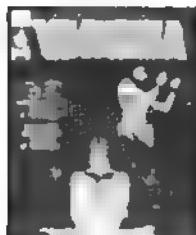
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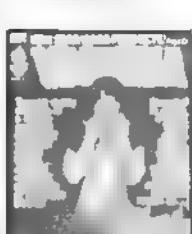
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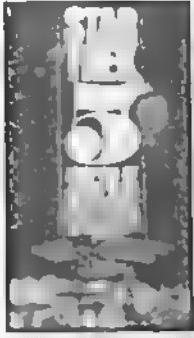
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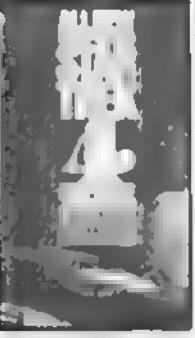
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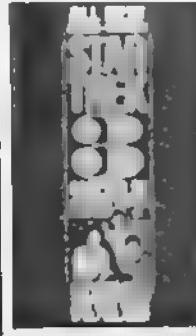
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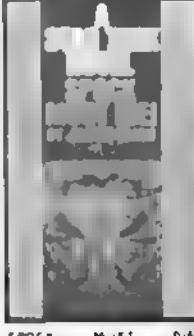
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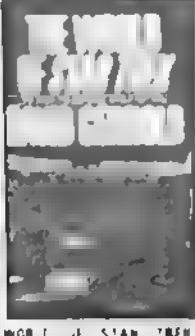
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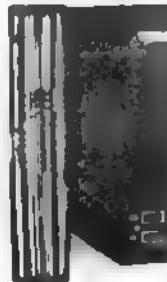


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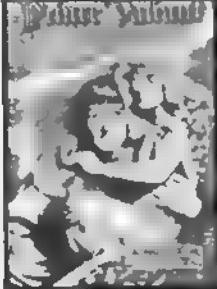
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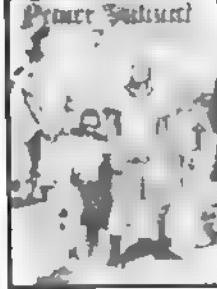
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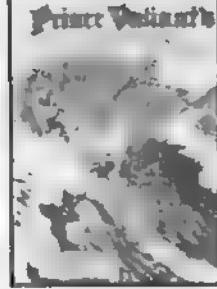
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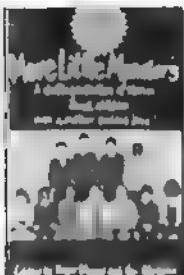


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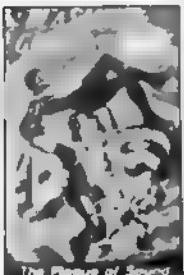
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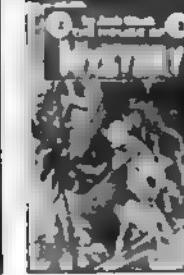
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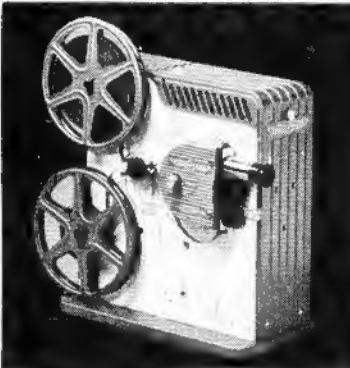
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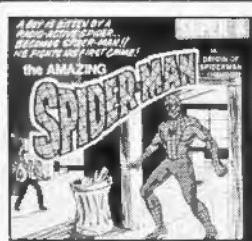


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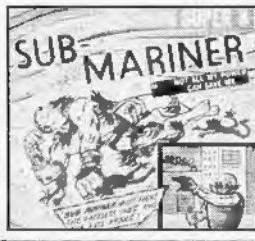
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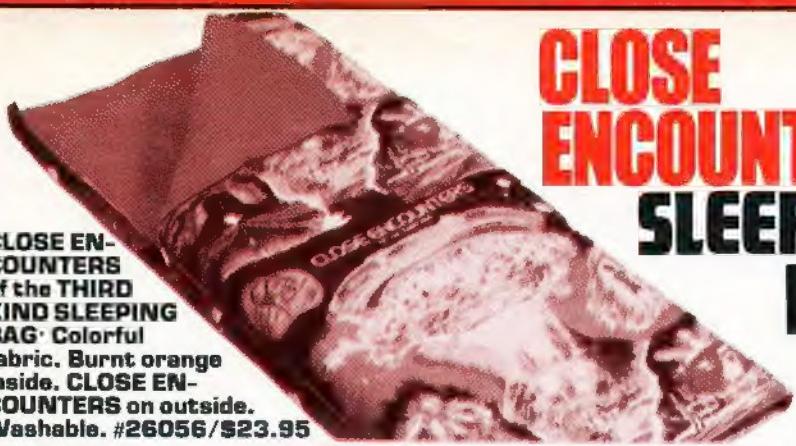
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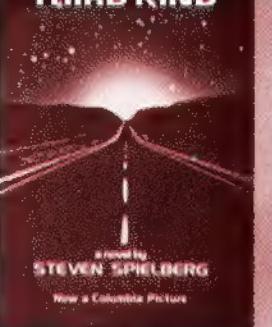
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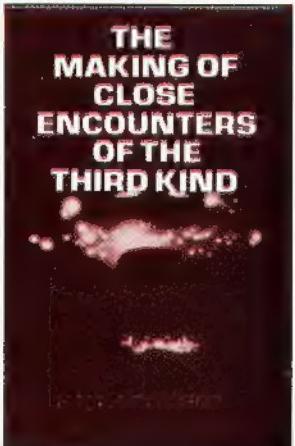
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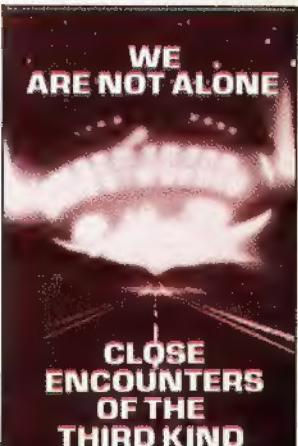
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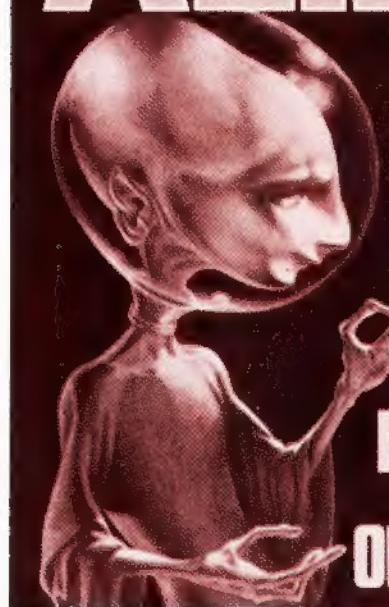
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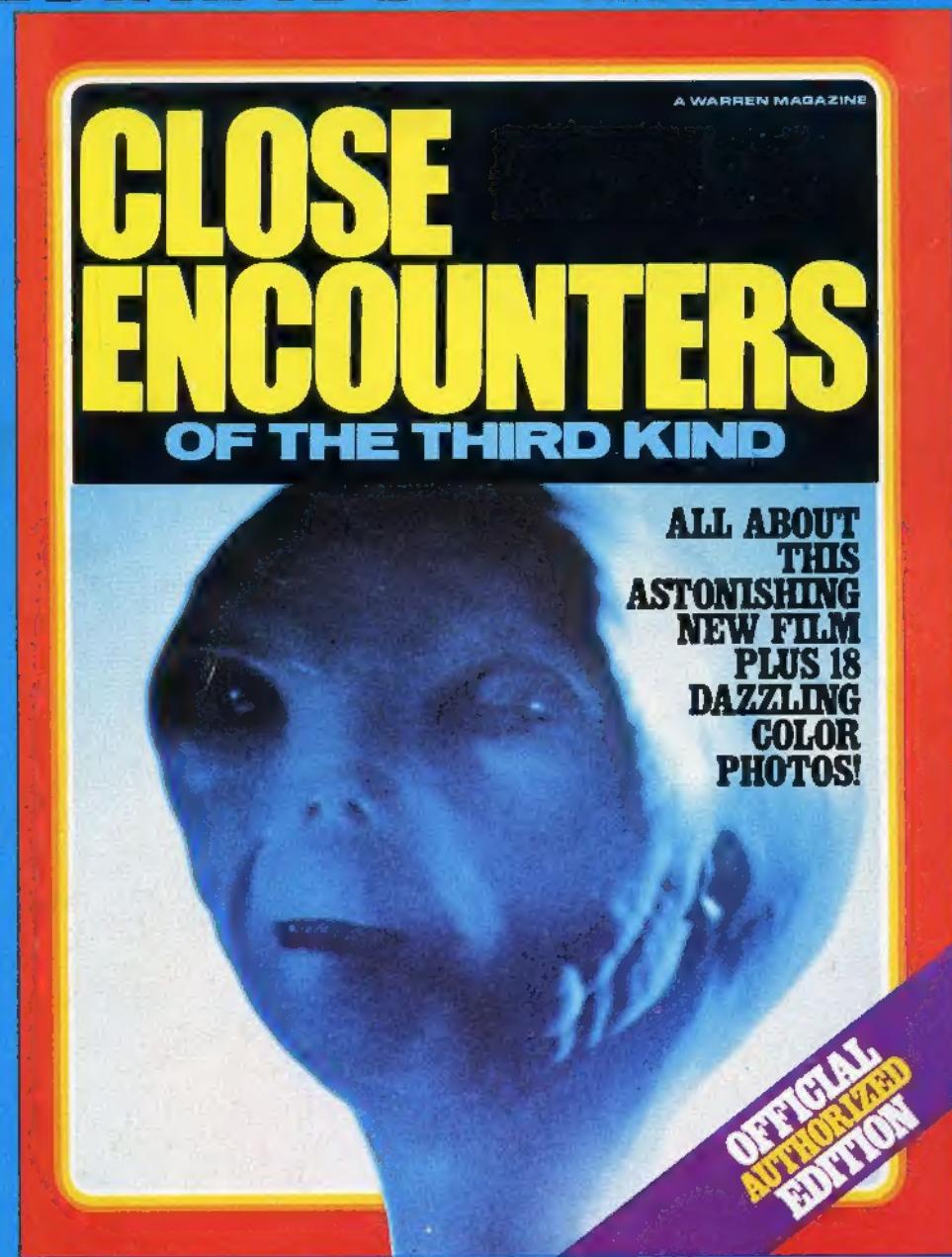


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